

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claim 1. (Withdrawn): A pharmaceutical composition for preventing or treating metabolic bone disease comprising a hot water extract of *Sophorae Fructus* as an effective ingredient.

Claim 2. (Withdrawn): The pharmaceutical composition of claim 1, wherein said hot water extract of *Sophorae Fructus* is prepared by the steps of:

- (a) adding water to the *Sophorae Fructus* powder, wherein the amount of water is 3 to 20 times as much as the weight of *Sophorae Fructus* powder; and
- (b) hydrothermal extracting the composition of step (a) for 1 to 6 hours to obtain the hot water extract of *Sophorae Fructus*.

Claim 3. (Withdrawn): The pharmaceutical composition of claim 1, wherein said hot water extract of *Sophorae Fructus* is prepared by the steps of:

- (a) adding water to the *Sophorae Fructus* powder, wherein the amount of water is 3 to 20 times as much as the weight of *Sophorae Fructus* powder;
- (b) hydrothermal extracting the composition of step (a) for 1 to 6 hours to obtain the hot water extract of *Sophorae Fructus*; and
- (c) adding amylase or pectinase to the hot water extract of *Sophorae Fructus*

of the step (b) by 0.01 ~ 1%(v/v), and reacting for 4 ~ 24 hours.

Claim 4. (Withdrawn): The pharmaceutical composition of claim 1, wherein the metabolic bone disease is selected from the group consisting of osteoporosis, lumbago, rheumatoid, arthritis, degenerative arthritis, rickets, osteomalacia and Paget's disease of bone.

Claim 5. (Withdrawn): A food composition for preventing or improving metabolic bone disease comprising a hot water extract of *Sophorae Fructus* as an effective ingredient.

Claim 6. (Withdrawn): The food composition of claim 5, wherein the metabolic bone disease is selected from the group consisting of osteoporosis, lumbago, rheumatoid, arthritis, degenerative arthritis, rickets, osteomalacia and Paget's disease of bone.

Claim 7. (Currently Amended): A method of preventing or treating metabolic bone disease, which comprises administering ~~a pharmaceutical composition~~ comprising a hot water extract of *Sophorae Fructus* to a subject in need thereof.

Claim 8. (Currently Amended): The method of claim 7, wherein the metabolic bone disease is ~~selected from the group consisting of~~ osteoporosis, lumbago, rheumatoid, arthritis, degenerative arthritis, rickets, osteomalacia and Paget's disease of bone.

Claim 9. (Canceled)

Claim 10. (Currently Amended): The method of claim 7 9, wherein the metabolic bone disease is prevented or treated by stimulating the osteoblast proliferation, the secretion of a growth factor involved in bone reformation, and the generation of nitric oxide in the osteoblast by ~~the administration of the pharmaceutical composition comprising the hot water extract of *Sophorae Fructus* to a subject.~~

Claim 11. (Original): The method of claim 10, wherein the growth factor involved in bone reformation is IGF-1 or TGF- β .

Claim 12. (Currently Amended): The method of claim 7, wherein the metabolic bone disease is prevented or treated by inhibiting the secretion of bone-absorptive cytokines or the osteoclast differentiation ~~by the administration of the pharmaceutical composition comprising the hot water extract of *Sophorae Fructus* to a subject.~~

Claim 13. (Original): The method of claim 12, wherein the bone-absorptive cytokine is IL-1 beta or IL-6.

Claims 14-15. (Canceled)